MONROVIA'S BEST KEPT SECRET

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Greg Goes Way West

About 15 miles!

P. 12

Only The Sky Covers You Better!

The Arcadia Weekly

The Community Newspaper For The City Of Arcadia

Vol. 6 No. 43

Core Media Group Inc. publications: Arcadia Weekly • Monrovia Weekly • Pasadena Independent • Sierra Madre Weekly

Thursday, Oct. 25-31, 2001

Ruth and Charles Gilb Arcadia Historical Museum Opens

(L-R) Charles Gilb, Ruth Gilb, Mayor Micky Segal, Floretta Lauber and Carol Libby. - Photo by Terry Miller

The culmination of a "three-way endeavor" of city, private and Historical Society funds was celebrated Saturday morning with the grand opening ceremony for the Ruth and Charles Gilb Arcadia Historical Museum. Floretta Lauber, president of the Arcadia Historical Society, praised the efforts of the three entities in making possible the facility that traces the history of the people who inhabited what is today the City of Arcadia.

The exhibit area of the museum features a timeline that starts with the village of Aleupkigna and depicts the city in its transition from ranch and farm life to a community of homes. The new facility replaces a temporary bank building used as the museum since 1988.

Almost 400 people attended the grand opening and applauded the efforts of Carol Libby, who has served as volunteer museum curator since 1995. "I have thoroughly enjoyed my role as curator. It's hard to release, but it must be," said Libby, who will retire next month.

It was noted that Charlotte Davenport, who was the museum's first curator, served from 1988 to 1995. Her son, Curt Davenport, is immediate past president of the Historical Society, and he was present to be recognized in memory of his mother's contribution to the museum.

Named in recognition of Ruth and Charles Gilb's major donation, the museum is located at 380 W. Huntington Dr., adjacent to the Arcadia Community Center where Holly Avenue, Huntington Drive and Campus Drive meet. Charles Gilb, the city's only four-time mayor, and his wife are 42-year residents of Arcadia. "It's a pleasure to do this," said Gilb.

Other major donors are the City of Arcadia, the H. N. and Frances C. Berger Foundation, the Oak Tree Racing Association and Santa Anita Park.

Lauber, a six-year veteran of the Historical Society board of directors, praised the project team as the "heroes" that worked with the project through completion. They are: Don Penman, Pat Malloy, Phil Saxton and Cindy Rowe from the city staff.

Also introduced were current Historical Society board members, including Barbara Barnes, Margaret Barrows, Chuck Bertolina, Davenport, Bill Gleason, Robert Harbicht, Theresa Hwang, Barbara Kovacic, Libby, Bill Schmitt, Gil Stromsoe, Rowena Weiler, John Wuo and Mary Young.

The museum is open, free of charge, Tuesday through Friday from 12:30 to 3:30 p.m. and on Saturday from 10 a.m. to noon.

Muslim Public Affairs Council Works to Promote a Greater Understanding of Islam

Fawaz Elmasri

In the weeks following the September 11 tragedies, suspicion of the Muslim community in America has been a matter of deep concern for both the Muslims themselves as well as President Bush and his cabinet. The Independent had the opportunity to talk with Fawaz Elmasri of the Muslim Public Affairs Council about the true nature of Islam and its role in the United States.

Mr Elmasri is a soft-spoken businessman who came to America from Tripoli, Lebanon in 1978. He is an American citizen who with his wife and four children has made a life in Arcadia. His business has raised over $500 for the victims of the World Trade Center attacks. When asked what his reaction was to the terrorist attack on September 11 he replied, "I condemn it! I feel that my country, the United States,

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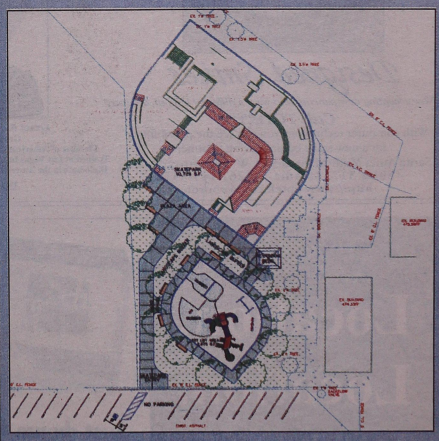
Skateboard Park Design Approved



A conceptual design for a skateboard park to be built at Bonita Park was approved last week by the Arcadia City Council.

Named the #1 priority by the Youth Master Plan and recommended by the Parks and Recreation Commission, the skateboard park will be a 10,729 square-foot site adjacent to a "tot park" on the grounds of Bonita Park. Purkiss Rose – RSI, a professional landscape architectural form with a history of skate parks, has developed a design concept that incorporates ramps, jumps, rails and various elevation

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